Sharing of Cess on oil

709. SHRI BACHAN! LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have doubled the Cess amount from Rs. 900/- MT to Rs. 1800/- MT;

(b) whether it is a fact that the liberlized regime has enhanced the responsibilities of the State and now they have a greater role to play;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Members of Parliament in their Memorandum of 1 st May, 2002 impressed upon Government to share with Oil producing States at least 50 per cent from the income generated from the Cess; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Government has specified the rate of duty of excise in respect of crude oil at the rate of Rs. 1800 per tonne *w.e.f.* 1st March, 2002.

(b) As per provisions under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, the cess is levied and collected by the Central Government and not by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is not aware of any such Memorandum from the Members of Parliament.

Disposal of waste steel pipes by ONGC

710. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner ERBC of ONGC distribute the waste steel pipes for building of bridges in upper Assam;

(b) whether there is any guidelines to provide these for MPLAD Schemes in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in supplying to such MPLAD public Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Eastern Region has donated condemned and unserviceable pipes to the State and District Administration Authorities for construction of bridges and other infrastructure in Upper Assam area from time to time. This is a part of ONGC's effort towards Socio Economic Development of the area, based on the requests received from these authorities from time to time ONGC have informed that no specific guidelines have been framed to provide these for MPLAD scheme in the region. In addition, ONGC has also been using such condemned and unserviceable pipes for construction of bridges as a part of its operational requirement in the Upper Assam area.

Absorption in increase in oil prices

711. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for absorbing small increases in oil prices by the oil companies instead of passing these on to consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of oil companies to such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism the pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, has been decontrolled and the oil companies are fixing the prices of these products.

Mechanism for revision of oil prices

712. SHRI J. CHrTHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism in petroleum sector, periodic revision of the prices of petrol and diesel has become the order of the day;